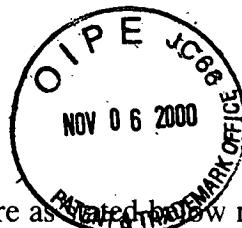


#3

DECLARATION FOR PATENT APPLICATION



As an inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as set forth below next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled, **METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR VIRTUAL SEALED-BID COMPETITIONS HELD OVER A COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK**, the specification of which

(check one)  is attached hereto.

was filed on \_\_\_\_\_ as United States Application Number or PCT International Application Number \_\_\_\_\_, and was amended on \_\_\_\_\_ (if applicable).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose to the Office all known information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, Section 119(a) -(d) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

Prior Foreign Application(s)

Priority Claimed

(Number)	(Country)	(Day/Month/Year Filed)	No
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I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, Section 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below.

60/203,964  
(Provisional Application No.)

May 12, 2000  
(Filing Date)

(Provisional Application No.)

(Filing Date)

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, Section 120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, Section 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

09/511,431  
(Application No.)

February 23, 2000  
(Filing Date)

Pending  
(Status-patent,pending,abandoned)

I hereby appoint the following attorney to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith:

**Jonathan A. Bay, Registration No. 35,064.**

Please direct all correspondence and telephone calls to:

**Jonathan A. Bay  
Attorney at Law  
333 Park Central East, Suite 314  
Springfield, MO 65806  
Telephone (417) 873-9100.**

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Full name of sole or first inventor Joseph A. HERMAN  
Inventor's signature Joseph A. Herman Date 9/8/2000  
Residence Springfield, Missouri  
Citizenship United States  
Post Office Address 3477 W. Edgewood  
Springfield, MO 65807

Full name of second joint inventor, if any: Darren C. HENDERSON  
Second Inventor's signature Darren C. HENDERSON Date 9/8/2000  
Residence Nixa, Missouri  
Citizenship United States  
Post Office Address 1906 E. Bellview 3203 S. BENTON  
Nixa, MO 65714 Springfield, MO 65807

Full name of third joint inventor, if any: Erick L. BURGESS

Third Inventor's signature X C-LB Date 9/8/00

Residence Springfield, Missouri

Citizenship United States

Post Office Address 2910 E. Manitou Valley Court  
Springfield, MO 65804

Full name of fourth joint inventor, if any: \_\_\_\_\_

Fourth Inventor's signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Residence \_\_\_\_\_

Citizenship \_\_\_\_\_

Post Office Address \_\_\_\_\_



Applicant or patentee: Joseph A. HERMAN et al.

Attorney Docket No.: 401-8

Application or Patent No.: not yet known

Filed on: submitted herewith

For: METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR VIRTUAL SEALED-BID COMPETITIONS  
HELD OVER A COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK

**VERIFIED STATEMENT (DECLARATION) CLAIMING SMALL ENTITY  
STATUS (37 CFR 1.9(F) AND 1.27(C)) - SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN**

I hereby declare that I am

the owner of the small business concern identified below:  
 an official of the small business concern empowered to act on behalf of the concern identified below:

NAME OF CONCERN ECLECTIC ENTERPRISES, INC.

ADDRESS OF CONCERN 3343 E. Montclair

Springfield, Missouri 65804

I hereby declare that the above identified small business concern qualifies as a small business concern as defined in 13 CFR 1.21.3-18, and reproduced in 37 CFR 1.9(d), for the purposes of paying reduced fees under section 41(a) and (b) of Title 35, United States Code, in that the number of employees of the concern, including those of its affiliates, does not exceed 500 persons. For purposes of this statement, (1) the number of employees of the business concern is the average over the previous fiscal year of the concern of the persons employed on a full-time, part-time or temporary basis during each of the pay periods of the fiscal year, and (2) concerns are affiliates of each other when either directly or indirectly, one concern controls or has the power to control the other, or a third party or parties controls or has the power to control both.

I hereby declare that rights under contract or law have been conveyed to and remain with the small business concern identified above with regard to the invention entitled METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR VIRTUAL SEALED-BID COMPETITIONS HELD OVER A COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK of inventor(s) Joseph A. HERMAN et al. described in

the specification filed herewith.  
 application no. \_\_\_\_\_, filed \_\_\_\_\_.  
 patent no. \_\_\_\_\_, issued \_\_\_\_\_.

If the rights held by the above identified small business concern are not exclusive, each individual, concern or organization having rights to the invention is listed below\* and no rights to the invention are held by any person, other than the inventor, who could not qualify as a small business concern under 37 CFR 1.9(c) if that person made the invention, or by any concern which would not qualify as a small business concern under 37 CFR 1.9(d) or a nonprofit organization under 37 CFR 1.9(e).

NOV 06 2000

\*NOTE: Separate verified statements are required from each named person, concern or organization having rights to this invention averring to their status as small entities. (37 CFR 1.27).

FULL NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

INDIVIDUAL  SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN  NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION

FULL NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

INDIVIDUAL  SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN  NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION

I acknowledge the duty to file, in this application or patent, notification of any change in status resulting in loss of entitlement to small entity status prior to paying, or at the time of paying, the earliest of the issue fee or any maintenance fee due after the date on which status as a small entity is no longer appropriate. (37 CFR 1.28(b)).

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application, any patent issuing thereon, or any patent to which this verified statement is directed.

NAME OF PERSON SIGNING Theodore W. TABOR

TITLE OF PERSON President

ADDRESS OF PERSON SIGNING 3343 E. Montclair  
Springfield, Missouri 65804

SIGNATURE X Theodore W. TABOR DATE X 9-8-00